

RURAL DISTRICT OF BRACKLEY

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the
Year 1946

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David J. Jones

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District of Brackley.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1946.

The vital statistics for the District again can be regarded as satisfactory. The birth rate of 22.5 is the highest recorded in the District, while the death rate remains the same as in 1945. The infant mortality rate of 44.5 contrasts with the rate of 35.9 in the year 1945, but compares favourably with the rate of 43 for the whole of England and Wales in 1946.

The estimated population at midyear 1946 was 8,980 which is considerably in excess of the figure of 8,390 which was the midyear population in 1939 and the number of evacuated persons remaining in the district must now be at its minimum.

The Sanitary Circumstances have not altered during the past year. Progress with the schemes for water and sewerage throughout the district have passed the stage of the Public Inquiry and it is to be hoped that the schemes will go forward with as little delay as possible.

At the time of writing this review the Rural Housing Survey is almost completed ; the figures are disturbing and show the extent of the rehousing programme which has to be faced in the years to come. Approximately 40% of all houses surveyed are considered to be in category 5 and unfit for habitation.

I wish to thank Mr. Turbitt and his Staff for the invaluable assistance given to me always, and without which it would be impossible to carry out all the work involved.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

DAVID J. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.

*Public Health Dept.,
Rural District Council Offices,
Brackley, Northants.
September, 1947.*

Brackley Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council :

LT. COL. J. L. FISHER, C.M.G., D.S.O., J.P., C.C.

Vice Chairman of the Council :

F. T. KIELDSEN, ESQ.

Members of the Public Health Committee :

MESSRS. J. N. GIBBARD (Chairman), E. H. BARKER, H. S. WATSON,
R. BARRETT, J. W. WOOD, L. WATSON, T. COTTRELL-DORMER,
REV. H. J. BOYD, LT. GEN. SIR B. N. SERGISON-BROOKE, MRS.
M. E. JOHNSON, MRS. F. A. KIRTLAND.

*The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Council are ex-officio members
of the Health Committee.*

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :

Medical Officer of Health,

DAVID J. JONES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Also holds appointments of

Medical Officer of Health in the Brackley Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry Borough.

Medical Officer of Health in the Daventry R.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health in the Brixworth R.D.C.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Northants County
Council.

Assistant County School Medical Officer, Northants County Council.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. TURBITT, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Inspector :

F. MAYHEW, C.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspectors :

S. J. SHEPPARD.

SECTION A.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF AREA AND STATISTICS.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1946.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	58,132
Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,980
Number of separate dwellings, occupied, 1946...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,842
Rateable Value, 1946	...	...	...	...	...	...	£35,197
Product of a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£136/13/6

Live Births					Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	187	95	92	
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	15	11	4	
					<hr/>			22.5

Stillbirths					Total	Male	Female	Rate
Legitimate	4	1	3	
Illegitimate	—	—	—	
					<hr/>			0.44

Deaths (all causes)	100	46	54	11.13
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Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.
Other puerperal causes...	Nil.

Infant Mortality—per 1,000 live births.

Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44.5
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
					<hr/>			
Total	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	44.5
					<hr/>			

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
„ „ Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

The registered causes of death were :—

<i>Causes of Death</i>						<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...			—	—	—
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
6.	Tuberculosis—Respiratory	...	...	...	...	—	2	2
7.	Tuberculosis—Other Forms	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
9.	Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
10.	Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
11.	Acute Poliomyelitis : Polio Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
12.	Acute Infectious Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
13.	Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagous	...	...	...	...	3	—	3
14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	3	3
15.	Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
16.	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	6	4	10
17.	Diabetes	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
18.	Intra Cranial Vascular Lesions	...	...	...	...	1	12	13
19.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	9	16	25
20.	Other Diseases of Circulation	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
21.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	3	2	5
22.	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	2	5	7
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
25.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
26.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
27.	Other digestive Disorders	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
28.	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	1	—	1
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortive Sepsis	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
31.	Premature Birth	...	...	...	...	2	—	2
32.	Congenital Malformation : Birth Injury :							
	Infantile Disorders	...	...	...	...	1	2	3
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	...	...	...	...	—	—	—
35.	Other Violent Causes	...	...	...	...	2	3	5
36.	All Other Causes	...	...	...	...	10	4	14
						46	54	100

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The Public Health Laboratory Service, Oxford, examine all swabs submitted by General Practitioners in the area and have also undertaken the bacteriological analysis of water samples and other specimens submitted from this district.

Samples of milk are taken by the Sanitary Inspector and these are examined in the laboratory section of the County Health Department.

(b) DIPHTHERIA ANTITOXIN.

A supply of antitoxin is maintained at the Council Offices in accordance with the provisions of the Diphtheria Antitoxin (Outside London) Order, 1910, and is available free of charge to all Medical Practitioners for use in cases of emergency in the rural district.

(c) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council have an agreement with the Joint Hospital Board for their ambulance, which is stationed at Staverton Isolation Hospital, to be sent to any part of the district in order to transport patients suffering from infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital. A Nurse accompanies the ambulance.

(d) NURSING IN THE HOME.

Under an agreement between the County Council and the County Nursing Association, the services of a nurse may be obtained for the treatment of patients suffering from puerperal fever, puerperal pyrexia, ophthalmia neonatorum, whooping cough, diarrhoea in young children, poliomyelitis, measles, and cerebro spinal fever, but owing to the acute shortage of nursing staff, it would almost be impossible to fulfil this agreement.

(e) CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Infant Welfare—Brackley.	}	Organised by County Council.
Orthopædic Clinic.		
Vision Clinic.		
Ante-Natal Clinic, Middleton Cheney.		

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF DISTRICT.

Drainage and Sewerage. The Minister of Health caused a local inquiry to be held on 10th April, 1946, into schemes for sewerage and sewage disposal in eighteen parishes in the Rural District, following which the schemes received his approval in principle.

The Minister stated he would be prepared to consider detailed plans and estimates of the Council's most urgent schemes covering approximately a third of the total estimated cost, *i.e.*, £50,000. Accordingly, the Engineers were instructed to proceed with the preparation of the detailed schemes for the following parishes, *viz* :

Overthorpe
Chipping Warden
Croughton
Chacombe
Moreton Pinkney
Helmdon
Culworth
Kings Sutton (sewers only)

Tenders for the Overthorpe Scheme were invited in November, 1946, because the works are required to deal with drainage from Council Houses commenced during the year. It is proposed to include the remaining schemes in a single contract which the Council hope they will be able to advertise in the Autumn of 1947.

Details of drainage work carried out and the installation of various sanitary fittings and apparatus will be found on page 15.

When a new sewerage system and improved water supply are provided in the various parishes throughout the district the Council will be able to proceed with requiring private owners to drain their premises into public sewers. Undoubtedly this will prove a boon to householders and others.

Closet Accommodation. It may be of interest to relate that out of 1,181 cottages inspected in 11 Parishes only 379, or 32.1%, of water closets are in use. There were 636, or 53.9%, houses with pail closets whilst 166, or 14% cottages using privies as closet accommodation were found.

The privy is an objectionable type of receptacle as usually large quantities of faecal matter are held therein for long periods pending removal. During this time and especially when the walls of the vault are not rendered impervious—which is often the case—seepage takes place and undoubtedly finds its way into the sub-soil water which supplies numerous shallow wells with drinking water. It will therefore be understood why so many of the shallow wells in the district yield water heavily contaminated with matter of faecal origin and totally unfit for drinking and domestic purposes. There is the unpleasant task of emptying these privies, which is the responsibility of owners or occupiers of properties, who, if they decide not to empty the privies themselves are finding it increasingly difficult in these days to obtain the necessary labour to have the privies emptied for them. It is a task which most owners or occupiers dislike to undertake themselves.

Whereas the contents of pail closets are very much less than that of the privy and emptied more frequently without allowing seepage to take place during its retention the faecal matter is eventually disposed of by burying it in the sub-soil. It will be appreciated, therefore, that the sub-soil water to some degree is again bound to receive contamination, especially if the pail contents are disposed of in land adjacent to shallow wells, which often was found to be the case. In this method there is always to be considered the unpleasantness of emptying the pails, to which most people raise objection. In quite a number of cases it has been discovered that cottages are not provided with sufficient garden ground in which the contents of pails can satisfactorily be emptied. This means that the cottager is confronted with the problem of finding some other suitable disposal place to which must be carried his pail contents.

The provision of water-closets to each premises in the district, in addition to eliminating the grave risk of water-borne infection breaking out, will abolish the most unpleasant custom which for so many years has been the lot of persons living in the country.

The introduction throughout the district of a new system of sewerage and sewage disposal together with a mains water supply will allow of the conservancy system of domestic sanitation in which faecal matter is retained in some form or other of closet apparatus to be carried away expeditiously from premises by water through a proper drainage system into the local authorities sewers where it is scientifically and satisfactorily dealt with at the sewage disposal works.

Water Supply—As in previous years, the sampling of various water supplies in the district indicates that much of the water is bad.

The various parishes or districts where sampling took place, the number of samples taken from each parish or district, and the results of the samples are as follows, viz :—

	<i>Total</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Bad</i>
Aston-le-Walls	1	1	—	—
Aynho	4	4	—	—
Boddington	1	—	1	—
Charlton	3	1	—	2
Chipping Warden	1	—	—	1
Croughton	1	1	—	—
Culworth	2	1	—	1
Chacombe	3	1	—	2
Evenley	7	3	1	3
Eydon	3	2	—	1
Farthinghoe	1	1	—	—
Greatworth	1	—	1	—
Helmdon	9	2	1	6
Kings Sutton	7	3	2	2
Marston St. Lawrence	1	—	1	—
Middleton Cheney	11	3	2	6
Moreton Pinkney	6	2	2	2
Sulgrave	4	—	1	3
Syresham	3	—	1	2
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	1	—	—	1
	70	25	13	32

Summarised results of tests are as under, viz :—

Good	35.7%
Suspicious	18.6%
Bad	45.7%

School Water Supplies—There are 20 Elementary Schools in the Rural District and in each case during 1946 samples of water were obtained and subjected to bacteriological examination. The result of such sampling is as follows, viz :—

(1) **Satisfactory Samples from following Schools :—**

Helmdon	Farthinghoe	Eydon
Culworth	Aston-le-Walls	Charlton
Aynho	Croughton	Kings Sutton
Chacombe	Thorpe Mandeville	Moreton Pinkney
Middleton Cheney	Evenley.	

(2) **Suspicious Samples from following Schools :—**

Greatworth	Marston St. Lawrence.
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(3) **Unsatisfactory (Contaminated) samples from following Schools :—**

Syresham	Sulgrave	Chipping Warden
Charlton (Well at School House)		Upper Boddington
Moreton Pinkney (Well at School House).		

The drinking water at Helmdon, Aynho and Evenley Schools is treated by chlorination.

Because of the inadequacy of water in some of the parishes a number of schools are not provided with water-carriage sanitary accommodation. For the same reason it is not practicable to provide satisfactory ablution arrangements in the cloakrooms at certain schools.

Summary of Result of Water Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination.

During the past six years increasing attention has been paid to the bacteriological examination of the water supplies in the various parishes, both public and private, and the following table gives a summary of these examinations.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken and examined</i>	<i>Result</i>		
		<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Suspicious</i>	<i>Bad</i>
1940	0	0	0	0
1941	15	2	0	13
1942	8	1	2	5
1943	64	20	10	34
1944	78	29	19	30
1945	63	37	3	23
1946	70	25	13	32
TOTALS	298	114	47	137
		61.74% Unsatisfactory		

Public Cleansing. A systematic collection of house refuse is in operation throughout the district.

The Parishes are served as follows :—

<i>Village</i>	<i>Date of Collection</i>	<i>Refuse Tip</i>
King's Sutton	Alternate Fridays	All refuse is now taken to either Moreton Pinkney or Greatworth.
Aynho	Alternate Fridays	
Middleton Cheney	Alternate Thursdays	
Chacombe	Second Tuesday in each month	
Chipping Warden	First Wednesday in each month	
Aston-le-Walls	First Monday in each month	
Boddingtons	First Monday in each month	
Eydon	Second Monday in each month	
Thenford	First Tuesday in each month	
Thorpe Mandeville	Second Wednesday in each month	
Marston St. Lawrence	Second Tuesday in each month	
Culworth	First Wednesday in each month	
Moreton Pinkney	Second Monday in each month	
Greatworth	First Monday in each month	
Sulgrave	Second Wednesday in each month	
Helmdon	Second Wednesday in each month	
Radstone	Third Wednesday in each month	
Charlton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Croughton	Third Tuesday in each month	
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	First Tuesday in each month	
Evenley	First Tuesday in each month	
Whitfield	Third Wednesday in each month	
Syresham	Third Wednesday in each month	
Farthinghoe	Second Tuesday in each month	

In my previous Reports to you I have mentioned the few metal sanitary refuse bins which are used in the district and the advantages of causing this type of bin to be used universally. There is, of course, the expense and the difficulty of procuring sanitary bins at the present time. In the future the Council may consider the desirability of embarking upon a scheme to require every house to be provided with this type of refuse storage receptacle.

It is pleasing to note that the recently acquired Bedford-Eagle refuse collection vehicle is now in use. This type of vehicle should prove a boon to the operators and is now dealing with the collection of household refuse in the most hygienic method heretofore practised in this district.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. A total of 171 complaints were received during the year and promptly investigated.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 2669 inspections.

120 Preliminary and 31 Statutory Notices were served. Of the number of Statutory Notices 25 were complied with during the year and it is expected that the outstanding notices will be complied with in due course.

From a considerable number of visits and enquiries made over a period of years by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors in regard to the sanitary circumstances of the area it has been possible to form some opinion as to the standard of the sanitary circumstances.

Even previous to the commencement of the Rural Housing Survey, which is now proceeding, it was fairly obvious that a large proportion of the working class dwellings in the district were below a reasonable standard as regards structure and maintenance. Now that the Rural Housing Survey is in operation it has brought to light numerous and various housing defects together with sub-standard amenities or even lack of amenities which are creating a high percentage of class V and class III houses according to the standard which has been laid down by the Northamptonshire County Council and to which this Council agreed to work when carrying out the survey. Elsewhere in this Report it is explained what constitutes a category V and category III house and thus it will be realised that possibly the majority of the category V houses eventually will require to be either demolished or drastically reconditioned and if demolished the erection of new houses would be necessary to replace the dispossessed tenants. Knowledge of the number of class V houses in the district should prove of assistance to the Council when planning their rehousing programme.

Those houses within category III will require an appreciable amount of labour and material expended on them to bring them up to a higher standard and, at the present time, it is almost impossible to acquire the necessary labour and materials to do this. Although one realises the paramount importance of building new houses in the district it is essential that a proportion of labour and building materials should be devoted to existing sub-standard houses where frequently defects of a really urgent nature have to be dealt with and such attention is also necessary for the prevention of further deterioration of the property which, if allowed to proceed, would cause it eventually to fall into a lower standard.

The lack of amenities which I have previously mentioned have been showing themselves in the form of: (1) pure water supply not being readily accessible; (2) absence of suitable drainage; (3) obsolete or insanitary type of sanitary accommodation and apparatus; (4) inadequate food storage and facilities for the preparation of food and, (5) inadequate arrangements for the washing of clothes.

It may be of some interest to read from the following summary the position in regard to water supply and closet accommodation as discovered in 11 parishes where the housing survey has been in operation, *viz* :

Parish	Popu- lation	Number of Houses	Number of Houses Inspected	Water Supply				Closets		
				Tap (Internal)	Stand- pipe	Well	Spring	W.Cs.	Pails	Privies
Middleton Cheney	1131	359	275	47	5	223		101	150	24
Aston-le-Walls	193	50	40	26	7	7		24	11	5
Aynho	367	118	103	26	45	28	4	35	35	33
Kings Sutton	990	338	289	64	42	183		85	178	26
Croughton	404	127	114	62	41	6	5	36	70	8
Chacombe	274	96	81	24		32	25	21	38	22
Newbottle	308	104	89	47	34	8		36	31	22
Evenley	313	107	86	23	29	34		10	71	5
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	122	29	21	3	16	2		2	12	7
Eydon (not complete)	422	119	50	22	14	14		28	12	10
Boddington (not complete)	325	141	33	4	25	4		1	28	4
	4849	1588	1181	348	258	541	34	379	636	166

Percentage of total number of houses inspected regarding water supplies and closet accommodation :

Water Supply :	Internal tap	29.4%	Closets :	W.Cs.	32.1%
	Stand-pipes	21.9%		Pails	53.9%
	Wells	45.8%		Privies	14.0%
	Spring	2.9%			

Summary of Sanitary Inspector's Visits to Premises during 1946.

Inspections—Housing Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	881
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	696
Inspections—Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	418
Notices served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	674
Verbal Notices	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
No. of complaints received	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	165
Food Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Notices complied with (including food premises)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	158

Visits to :—

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	39
Fishmongers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	83
Public Houses...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Provision Shops	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Ice Cream Places	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Schools...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Infectious Diseases Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Urinals	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Drains re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drains partly re-laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Rat infested premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the Year 1946.

Details of work completed.

	Total
Roof renewed or repaired	46
Chimney Stack repaired or renewed	10
Gutters repaired or renewed	6
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	3
External walls repaired or re-pointed	8
Dampness abated :—	
i. repairs to roof	26
ii. repairs to external walls	4
iii. repairs to gutters or rainwater pipes	1
iv. waterproofing of internal walls	4
v. Damp proof course provided	—
Permanent ventilation provided	—
Wall plaster repaired...	45
Ceiling plaster repaired	40
Walls cleaned or redecorated	41
Ceilings cleaned or redecorated	39
Windows repaired or renewed	20
Sashcord provided	—
Doors repaired or renewed	5
Floors repaired or renewed	19

Stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Window and door sills repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Plinth provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Through ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Yard or passage surface paved	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Firegrates or ranges repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New sink provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
New waste pipe to sink provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Separate water supply provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Washing copper repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wash-house rebuilt or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Ventilated food store provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Food store repaired or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Verminous rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Miscellaneous Housing items	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
Staircase handrails provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Wells repaired or cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Water pumps repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Chlorination plants provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Metafilters provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Sanitary Conveniences.

Elsan Closets provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Separate accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
New W.C.'s provided complete	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
New W.C. basin provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
W.C. cistern repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
W.C. compartment repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Closets repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Closets limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
New pails to closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Closets cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	16
Privies Abolished	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
New Urinals built	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

Drainage.

Drains examined	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Drains repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	48
Premises drained to sewer	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Soil pipe or vent-shaft repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Inspection chamber provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Fresh air inlet fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Vent-shaft provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
New gullies provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	28
Miscellaneous draining items	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New septic tanks provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

Nuisances.

Offensive accumulation removed	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Nuisance from keeping animals abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Smoke nuisance abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	—

Shops and Offices—No action was taken during the year.

Camping Sites—No camps were established in the district during the year.

Smoke Abatement—No action was necessary.

Swimming Baths and Pools—There are no baths or pools subject to inspection in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs—No action was necessary.

SECTION D.

RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.

The number of houses inspected under the Rural Housing Survey during 1946 was 706 which have been classified as follows :—

18 Category	I	(i.e., houses in all respects fit for human habitation).
112 Category	II	(i.e., houses where minor defects exist which can be remedied either by informal action or action under the Public Health Act, 1936.)
278 Category	III	(i.e., houses not in all respects fit for human habitation but which are capable of being made fit at a reasonable cost.)
298 Category	V	(i.e., houses which are unfit for human habitation and incapable of being made fit at a reasonable cost.)

The total number of inspections made since the commencement of the survey up to 31st December, 1946, was 1,215 and the properties were categorised as follows, viz :—

26	Category	I	2.2%
168	„	II	13.8%
511	„	III	42.0%
510	„	V	42.0%

It will be seen by the above figures that the percentage of houses in Categories III and V still remain high.

Progress of the Survey has been retarded due to time and attention which was necessary in supervising the influx of families into the camp lately used by the Royal Air Force at Chipping Warden. It has also been necessary to make enquiries and inspections in regard to applications received for tenancy of Council houses. Inspections of dwellinghouses have revealed defects of an urgent nature which necessitate the services of Notices calling for remedial treatment and such Notices have to be followed up until the work required to be carried out is completed. Time spent in these several ways would otherwise have been given to the survey.

Due to present day scarcity of available labour and materials a

considerable time often elapses between service of Notices and completion of the work which they specify, and this causes outstanding Notices to accumulate in disquieting numbers.

As mentioned above the percentage of category III houses is high whilst a large proportion of these requires a considerable amount of work to bring them up to the required standard.

The principal defects usually found are insufficient height to rooms ; bad internal arrangements ; no secondary means of access ; lack of suitable sanitary arrangements ; unsatisfactory water supplies ; inadequate natural light and serious dampness. To remedy such defects is likely to incur considerable expense.

In this connection the question arises whether the work involved could be carried out at reasonable expense. The net annual income from some of the cottages concerned is very low, probably in the region of £4 to £5, and if for instance the estimated cost of the proposed work was £200, it might be argued that the cost is unreasonable.

An alternative to serving a Notice to carry out repairs and alterations would be to take action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936, and make a Demolition Order on the property, in which case the onus would be on the owner as to whether he would be prepared to carry out the work whatever the cost.

Another alternative would be for the Council to purchase the property either voluntarily or by compulsory purchase in accordance with Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1936, and themselves carry out the necessary work.

Royal Air Force Station—Chipping Warden—In August civilian families commenced to take up occupation of this camp and at the end of the year 51 families were installed. Approximately 50% of the tenants came from within the Brackley Rural District area.

When occupation of the Huts commenced arrangements were immediately made for the maintenance of all services, and in this connection assistance was readily given by the Air Ministry.

There are 13 sites apart from the main Technical Site, which are scattered over a large area, 10 being occupied by the settlers. The total number of huts is 78 and 36 being divided into 4, 5, or 7 rooms. These were the first to be occupied but the demand for accommodation exceeded the number of partitioned huts so some families occupied one-roomed huts known as the ' Barrack ' type.

Although the accommodation provided at the Camp is not all that can be desired, it is an improvement on the conditions under which some of the families had previously been living. Some families were living in overcrowded conditions and congested areas ; others were accommodated in premises subject to Demolition Orders. Young married couples, who

had been living with parents or in lodgings, took the opportunity of setting up a home of their own.

At least the occupants of the Camp are enjoying the use of a water-carriage system of drainage, a plentiful water supply, and living in premises which have good light and circulation of air.

Proposals have been prepared for the partitioning of the Barrack Huts into self contained living quarters, with the provisions of means for cooking, storage of food, internal water closet, sink and water supply. The instalment of these services and fitments will also be carried out in the huts which are already partitioned.

The above-mentioned work will be in all probability carried out in the near future as a tender for the conversion and alteration of the huts has been accepted.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1 (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1,299
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	2,669
2 (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	881
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	1,577
3	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	—
4	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	688

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	109
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) **Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—**

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	—
---	--------	---

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(b)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	140
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	By Owners	25
(b)	By local Authority in default of owners ...	—
(c)	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	—
(d)	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	—

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936—PART 4—OVERCROWDING.

Present position not thoroughly investigated.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Fairly regular visits are made to premises where food is deposited or prepared for sale for human consumption, but due to the pressure of work in other directions as many visits have not been made as would otherwise normally be possible. Nevertheless I am pleased to state that no outbreak of food poisoning or other illness due to consumption of foods has occurred in this district during the period under review.

With some exceptions the general standard of food premises in the district are not all that could be desired, but until economical conditions improve, little can be done about the position other than exercising care and attention amongst the food operatives, particularly in regard to methods of storage, production and handling of the various food commodities.

It would be a great advantage if in all food premises suitable means were provided for allowing persons handling food stuffs to wash their hands clean and this means that suitable wash basins with warm water and clean towels should be available. Especially is this necessary adjacent to toilets which are used by the food operatives.

Milk Supply and Control—The total number of Cowkeepers in this district is now 216, as against 214 in 1945. As against 14 producers of Tuberculin Tested milk in 1945 17 are now producing such milk. The number of Accredited producers this year is 42 as against 45 last year.

Again, with some notable exceptions, generally speaking the standard of milk production in this district is not good. As much time as is possible is given by the Public Health Officers to this important matter but when one realises the fairly high number of producers in the district much more time should be spent at the cowshed and dairy than is at present possible if sufficient control is to be exercised with a view to the provision of cleaner and safer milk supplies in the area.

It may be argued that as the bulk of the milk produced in this area is collected by the Dairies and afterwards subjected to pasteurisation that it is not important to devote too much time in regard to methods of production. Most of us, however, will agree that heat treated milk is deficient in some of its natural food qualities and that the best milk for everyone, particularly babies and invalids, is good clean raw milk which is free from infection, but until such time as it can be said that raw milk is free from any risk of infection pasteurisation may be considered to be a necessary evil.

At some time in the not too distant future the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries propose to deprive Local Authorities of their powers of administering milk production at the farm. Even if this change materialised the Local Authorities will still be responsible for the supervision and control of milk sold by retail in their district.

Samples of milk are taken as often as is practicable for submission to the Methylene Blue, Phosphatase, and Sediment Tests. In addition to those samples, which are taken by your Sanitary Inspectors, milk as it reaches the various Dairies is subjected to a quick Platform Test in addition to other tests which are carried out from time to time at the farms. This method is known as the Resazurin Test.

With a view to ascertaining whether there was any connection between the village milk supply and minor outbreak of Cervical Adenitis in the Parish of Chacombe during the year nine samples of milk were taken and subjected to a biological examination but without revealing a positive result. I should like to see many more samples of milk taken in this district and subjected to examination for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli.

Total number of Cowkeepers on Register at 31.12.46 216

59 produce designated milk, *i.e.*, (17 "Tuberculin Tested"; 42 "Accredited").

157 produce undesignated milk.

Of these Cowkeepers the number who retail milk is 52.

12 retail designated milk, *i.e.*, (5 "Tuberculin Tested," 7 "Accredited").

40 retail undesignated milk.

The year brought 9 applications from persons requiring to carry on the trade of a cowkeeper in this district, 8 of which were granted. Three producers were promoted to the designated standard of "Tuberculin Tested".

During this period 6 Cowkeepers gave up business and have been removed from the Register.

The Sanitary Inspectors made 166 visits concerning clean milk production.

Results of 43 samples of milk taken in 1946 are as under :—

METHYLENE BLUE TEST.

Good, 24 (77.5 p.c.) ; Moderate, 0 (0 p.c.) ; Bad, 7 (22.5 p.c.).

PHOSPHATASE TEST.

3 samples of Pasteurised milk taken. Result—Satisfactory.

BIOLOGICAL TESTS FOR PRESENCE OF TUBERCLE BACILLI.

9 samples examined. All negative.

Comparative results of sampling (methylene blue test) over past 7 years :—

Year	Total	Result					
		Good		Moderate		Bad	
1940	66	25	40%	14	20%	27	40%
1941	73	40	55%	14	19%	19	26%
1942	54	31	55%	12	23%	11	22%
1943	53	34	64%	9	17%	10	19%
1944	53	37	70%	13	24%	3	5%
1945	46	15	34%	10	21%	21	45%
1946	31	24	77.5%	—	—	7	22.5%

Food Supervision—Following are details of food premises existing in the district together with the number of visits made during the year, viz :—

	No. in District	No. of Visits
No. of Provision Shops	55	26
No. of Butchers' Shops	13	23
No. of Dining Rooms	1	1
No. of Public Houses or Inns	39	37
No. of Bakehouses	13	39
No. of Registered Cowkeepers	216	166
No. of Ice Cream Shops	4	4
No. of Fishmongers	2	2

Food and Drugs Act, 1938—There are 17 registered premises in the district which are affected by this Act, viz :—

13 Butchers' Premises.

4 Ice Cream Premises.

Also there are 13 Licensed Slaughterhouses in the district and 1 Knacker's premises.

Meat and Foods Inspection—The amount of food condemned during the year is set out in the following table.

<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>	<i>Disease or Condition</i>
Stomach and Intestines of Pig	13 lb.	Tapeworm in bladder causing inflammation.
Mesentery	1 lb. 4 oz.	Tuberculosis.
Liver	3 lb.	Cirrhosis.
Bacon	3 lb.	Decomposition.
Pig's Lungs	3 lb. 7 oz.	Tuberculosis.
Pilchards	2 lb. 13 oz.	Decomposition.
Marmalade	12 lb.	Acidity and Metallic Contamination.
Spam	12 oz.	Decomposition.
Evaporated Milk	21 lb. 15 oz.	Perforated Tins.
Tinned Peas	2 lb. 6 oz.	Blown Tins.
Tinned Broth	1 lb.	Blown Tins.
	<hr/> 61 lb. 9 oz. <hr/>	

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowsheds cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	20
Accumulation of manure removed	...	...	...	...	...	10
Impervious floor provided	...	...	...	...	...	15
Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	...	1
Dairy cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	15
Proper dairy provided	...	...	...	...	...	3
Floors cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Additional lighting provided	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard surfaces cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	—
Proper facilities for sterilizing	...	...	...	...	...	—
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	5

Slaughterhouses.

Slaughterhouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	13
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	...	...	5
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	—

Bakehouses.

Bakehouse cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	28
Benches cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	2

Food Preparing Premises, Shops, Stalls, Etc.

Premises cleansed or limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	8
Benches etc., cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	2
Waste foodstuffs and refuse removed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Structural repairs carried out	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miscellaneous items	...	...	...	...	...	5

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

During the year there were 27 cases of infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) notified.

The following table sets forth the nature of the various diseases and shows the distribution of the cases throughout the parishes in the district.

INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES
(other than Tuberculosis)
IN INDIVIDUAL PARISHES
during the year, 1946.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Diphtheria</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Erysipelas</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>	<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>	<i>Cerebro Spinal Meningitis</i>	<i>Dysentery</i>	<i>Chicken Pox</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
<i>* Indicates Non-Civilian</i>											
Aston-le-Walls	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aynho	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Boddington	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chalcombe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Charlton	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chipping Warden	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Croughton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Culworth	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Edgcote	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Evenley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eydon	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Farthinghoe	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	3
Greatworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Helmdon	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Hinton-in-the-Hedges	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	*1	1
Kings Sutton	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Marston St. Lawrence	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Middleton Cheney	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3
Moreton Pinkney	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Radstone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sulgrave	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Syresham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thenford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thorpe Mandeville	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warkworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	7	—	1	—	13	2	1	1	1	1	27

**PERIOD DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFIED CASES
OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES—1946.**

A statement shewing the period distribution of the cases notified is given hereunder:

	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	TOTALS
Scarlet Fever ...	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	7
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	4	1	—	2	1	13
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Chicken Pox ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Total ...	1	1	—	3	1	3	2	5	1	1	5	4	27

Tuberculosis—All new cases of tuberculosis, respiratory or non-respiratory, are reported to the County Medical Officer of Health. Institutional care, when considered necessary, is arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health and County Tuberculosis Officer in the County Sanatoria.

The living conditions, etc., of persons subsequently discharged from these sanatoria are investigated by this Authority.

During the year 9 new cases of Tuberculosis were notified, 5 being of a respiratory nature and 4 non-respiratory. This shows an increase of 1 as against a total of 8 cases which were notified in 1945.

The following table gives the incidence of new cases with their age distribution.

New Cases during 1946.

Age Periods Years	New Cases							
	Respiratory				Non-Respiratory			
	Male		Female		Male		Female	
	C.	NC.	C.	NC.	C.	NC.	C.	NC.
0 — 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 — 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
5 — 15	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
15 — 25	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—
25 — 35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35 — 45	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45 — 55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55 — 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Totals	1	1	3	—	1	—	3	—

c.—Civilian.

NC.—Non-Civilian.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Immunisation in Relation to Child Population.

Age at 31:12:45 Year Born	Under 1 1946	1 1945	2 1944	3 1943	4 1942	5-9 1937-41	10-14 1932-36	Total under 15
Number Immunised	1	66	120	100	117	581	681	1666
Estimated Mid-Year Population	840					1210		
Percentage Immunised	50%					94%		

MISCELLANEOUS.

Police Court Proceedings.

1. Court where heard. 2. Date of hearing. 3. Parties concerned.	Offence.	Result of Legal Action.
1. Brackley Petty Sessions. 2. 4:12:46. 3. Brackley R.D.C. <i>v</i> Mr. C. W. Bachelor.	Alleged Assault by Mr. C. W. Batchelor on Mr. F. Mayhew, Sanitary Inspector.	Mr. Batchelor found not guilty.

